



HORMEAD (VA) CofE FIRST & NURSERY SCHOOL

Newsletter

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" John 10:10



Issue No: 18 25/26

Dear Families,

Rain, rain... go away!

Now I truly understand why the British talk so much about the weather. Was it only a couple of weeks ago that we were all complaining about how hot it was? The children, of course, seem completely unfazed. While the endless "wet play" sessions may have been sending staff just a tiny bit barmy, the children have absolutely embraced them - channelling their energy into indoor fun and still managing to end each day with smiles.

Meanwhile, football fever has well and truly arrived at Hormead as the World Cup kicks off. Knowing that most matches are far too late for our children (and probably for many of us adults too), we decided to bring the magic a little closer to home by creating our very own Hormead World Cup.

Children who wanted to take part have been grouped into international teams, and this week - while skilfully dodging the rain - they've begun their friendly warm-up matches. The real competition starts next week, with matches taking place at break times and the rest of the school cheering them on.

Not to be left out, the staffroom has its own World Cup buzz with our annual sweepstake. I drew Curaçao, admittedly, a team I had to Google, so do wish me luck! Although, in this World Cup, anything can happen!



Alongside all the excitement this week, there has also been some quieter yet equally important work taking place across the school. Our wonderful Year 1 children completed their phonics screening, Year 2 pupils undertook their SATs (which we use internally to help ensure children remain on track), and Year 4 tackled their multiplication screening check. We are incredibly proud of how calmly and confidently all the children approached these assessments.

At our school, however, tests are only a small part of the picture. Learning through rich experiences remains at the heart of what we do. This week, Year 1 enjoyed a trip to Buntingford, where they explored human and physical features. This will support their upcoming learning as they begin to compare Buntingford with Shanghai.

We are also delighted to welcome **James Schwan** to Year 2 this term. I know you will all make both him and his family feel very welcome

Looking ahead, we are very excited about next weekend's Summer Fayre. We do hope many of you will be able to join us, and please do help spread the word. Our PTA is made up of a small but incredibly dedicated group of parents who work tirelessly to make this event a success. Any support you can offer, even just an hour helping on a stall, would make a huge difference.

This week's class news is all about the English learning this term.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support, it makes all the difference.

Mrs Cowler Headteacher



Love of Learning, Love of Life itself and Love of God



Reasons to Celebrate

Class Stars of the Week



You make us so proud!

Hedgehogs	Louanna Ellis	For showing her values of love and kindness
Hedgehogs	Gracie-May Belford	Using her phonics to write her brother's name.
Cherry	Zac Paddington-Dark	His attention and contributions during carpet time
Cherry	Myles Larman	For trying really hard with writing and phonics
Willow Y1	Daphne Richardson	For improved confidence completing comprehensions independently
Birch Y2	James Schwan	A great first week and for settling in so well
Birch Y2	Birch Class	Being resilient and trying their best during our tests
Oak Y3	Mia Santoli	Amazing effort in maths
Oak Y3	Eva Austin	For writing a wonderful poem in English
Oak Y4	Esmae Paine	A great improvement in her writing
Oak Y4	Archie Newman	Always being polite around school

Values Hearts



Cooperation	Aubrey-Mae in Reception	For great teamwork in PE
Cooperation	Birch Class	For working together brilliantly and helping each other answer questions
Kindness	Hermione in Reception	For helping her friends
Kindness	Ember in Nursery	For showing kindness to her friends
Resilience	Jesse in Reception	For working so hard on his writing
Resilience	Daphne in Year 1	Showing resilience in our reading comprehension assessments
Resilience	Freddie F in Nursery	For super phonics and learning
Aspiration	Evie in Birch	For going above and beyond in her morning writing
Aspiration	George in Nursery	Having a clear understanding in maths and counting to 20
Aspiration	Sulley in Nursery	For being able to say what 'glum' means
Aspiration	Flo in Nursery	For amazing comprehension & answering tricky questions
Aspiration	Joey in Oak	For showing aspire in his poem writing
Aspiration	Albie H in Year 2	For showing aspire in his phonics learning
Aspiration	Maggie in Year 2	For showing aspire in her phonics



Congratulations for completing the house point challenge:

BRONZE AWARD: Myles Larman, Matilda Risley, Hermione Hagley, Roman Kostur, Theo Foscett

GOLD AWARD: Hattie Foster

Love of Learning, Love of Life itself and Love of God



180 Years Fundraising News

Thank you so much!

The challenge will continue through the summer holidays and the new year

Total Raised So Far: £4,576

- ✓ **£1,854** from Crowdfunder
- ✓ **£1,000** donation from the Hormead Community
- ✓ **£1,545** other donations

Thank
you!

If you have given money directly to the school bank please let us know your child's name in the reference

Link to Crowdfunder below:

[Help Us Build a New Hall for Hormead School - a crowdfunding project in Buntingford by Hormead CofE First School](#)

Please note – there is a slider to donate a portion of money to crowdfunder. **You DON'T need to do this.**

Spotlight on the 180 Challenge!

EVERY child taking part in the 180 challenges will receive a special bear gift from Hormead as a thank you

Our current fundraising champions are:

- **Thalia and Eva Jechorek** raising **£80** by selling sweets from Poland in school
- **Flo Eastwood** has raised **£390** in her challenge of swimming 180 lengths
- **Ember Bilton** has raised **£50** so far by drawing 180 pictures of people
- **Carter Carlson** is collecting 180 eggs to sell – watch this space!
- **Leo Darmody** is walking to school 180 times to raise money – watch this space!
- **Arthur & Raphael Frearson** are planting and selling 180 sunflowers – **£123 so far!**
- **Julia Zolti** is currently selling handmade necklaces in school – watch this space!
- **Joey, Romie, Zac & Oakley's** have raised **£155** for collecting 180 pieces of rubbish each around Hormead
- **Thomas Stanning** has raised **£281** so far in a litter Picking campaign!
- **Ellis Plummer** has built 180 sandcastles on holiday for his fundraising –raising **£100!**
- **Aubrey Buzzing** has raised **£85** so far planting 180 different seeds at her Nana's allotment to raise money
- **Alex Baker** has raised **£120** by bouncing 180 times
- **Arthur Rodgers** is completing 180 yoyo's – raising **£60**
- **Oliver Ward** played 180 minutes of pool with family and friends raising **£120.**
- **George Apostolos** has been on the lookout for 180 churches raising **£230 so far!**
- **Matilda Risley** for swimming 180 lengths and raising an incredible **£1,050!!**
- **Albie** is walking his dogs 180 minutes per week and has raised **£95 so far..**



Please let us know if we have left your child off the list!

Love of Learning, Love of Life itself and Love of God



Class News

Forest School



At the start of the week, we lit a little fire under Mother Beech and made some “rainbow toast”. Since then, it’s been more rain than rainbow, but we’re hoping the sun returns next week.

The wet weather has given us the perfect chance to practise some knots - the overhand knot, a figure-of-eight knot and a reef knot - all of which rely on knowing our left and right.

Not deterred by the mud, some groups have enjoyed playing games in the forest, discovering some very creative hiding spots along the way.



Ivy Eileen

Hoglets Class – age 2 and 3 years



Over the past fortnight, we have been exploring the wonderful world of Fairy Tales! Our first fairy tale was The Three Little Pigs. The children thoroughly enjoyed listening to and retelling parts of the story, with their favourite phrase being, “I’ll huff and I’ll puff and I’ll blow your house down!” It was lovely to hear them confidently joining in during story time. We explored the different materials the pigs used to build their houses and discussed which materials would be the strongest. The children then had the opportunity to build their own houses on the tuff tray using a variety of materials. They also enjoyed a creative sticking activity, choosing materials to create either a straw house, stick house, or brick house. Our playdough turned pink this week, allowing the children to create their very own little pigs. We also had lots of fun decorating biscuits with pink icing and decorations to make them look like pigs.

Love of Learning, Love of Life itself and Love of God



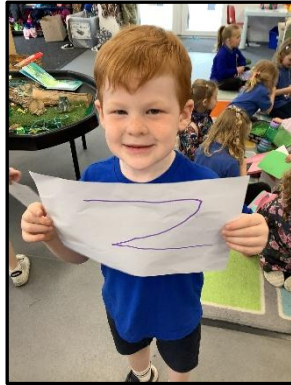
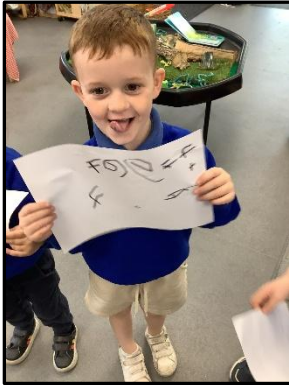
Our next fairy tale was *The Gingerbread Man*. Once again, the children have loved listening to the story and recalling key events during story time. They have been busy making their own gingerbread men on the tuff tray using gingerbread-scented playdough, as well as getting creative through painting and sticking activities. During our large mark-making sessions, the children enjoyed retelling and recreating the story of *The Gingerbread Man*, developing both their imagination and early literacy skills. This week, the children also enjoyed a music session with Emma. Through music and movement, they listened to the story of *The Tortoise and the Hare*, learning about how one character moves very fast while the other moves very slowly. The story helped the children understand that it is not always the fastest person who wins the race, and they had great fun joining in with the actions and activities. We have had a fantastic fortnight filled with storytelling, creativity, and imaginative play, and we look forward to continuing our fairy tale adventures next week.



Mrs Eves, Mrs Plumb

Hedgehogs Class – age 3 and 4 years

This term in Hedgehogs, our learning has been centred around English, and the children have shown fantastic enthusiasm and progress. Each morning, we take part in a lively phonics lesson following the Little Wandle programme. Last week we explored the sound “qu”, and this week we have moved on to “ch” as we begin working with digraphs—two letters that make one sound. The children are making huge strides in recognizing and blending sounds, giving them strong stepping stones for Reception and early reading.

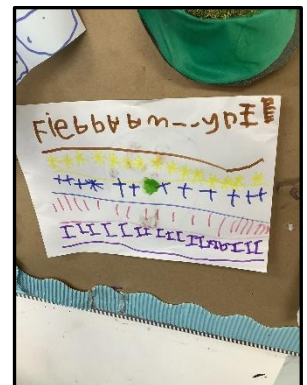


Every week we enjoy a new Book of the Week, and the children love using the story puppets to retell and sequence events in their own words. Alongside this, we share a Poem of the Day, sing throughout the day, and take part in two weekly music lessons, all of which help to strengthen rhythm, memory, and language.

As part of our termly Essential English plan, last term the children created posters showing what plants need to survive. This term, our focus is on understanding and creating a clear beginning, middle, and end in storytelling. We also introduced a Word of the Week to broaden vocabulary—last week’s word was cygnet, and this week’s is alight.

We are especially proud that many children are now beginning to show emerging writing. Their confidence, creativity, and growing independence are wonderful to see.

Mrs Stuart, Mrs Larman, Miss Jackson





Maple Class – SEND



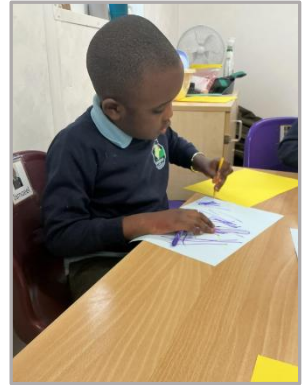
Maple Class have had a really lovely couple of weeks, and we haven't let the rainy weather dampen our spirits! In fact, the rain has given us even more opportunities to splash, jump and enjoy some very exciting puddles during our outdoor time. There have been lots of smiles and laughter all round.

We have been focusing on the story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt", which has quickly become a firm favourite. The children have shown fantastic engagement with the story, sitting attentively and showing real anticipation as it unfolds. Some children are beginning to join in with repeated words and phrases, which has been wonderful to see.

In Maple Class, we support communication using visuals, Makaton signs, gestures and our voices. Every child has their own unique way of communicating, and over the last couple of weeks we have seen some lovely progress. The children are becoming more confident in expressing themselves, whether through signs, sounds, choices or actions.

We are incredibly proud of all the children for their enthusiasm, engagement and achievements. Well done, Maple Class — keep up the brilliant work!

Mrs Lynch, Mrs Dunn and Mrs Wade



Cherry Class – Reception



Cherry Class have had a busy fortnight starting our new theme of 'Curious Creators'. We have started off by becoming gardeners. Last week, we used the key text 'Jack and the Beanstalk' to help us think about how plants grow and what we might see in a garden. The children have loved playing with our small world to role play the story, and also role playing in our garden centre selling flowers and seeds to their friends. The children also decorated their own plant pots using a decoupage technique - they look fantastic. The children have now planted a sunflower seed and are eagerly checking on them each day waiting for the first plants to (hopefully) sprout!

In Literacy, the children have started their new books all about the planet. They first thought about which senses we can use to experience nature and have now begun writing sentences to describe what nature is like.

In PE, we have started our new ball skills unit. The children have been really enjoying practicing their rolling, tracking and aiming, as well as their underarm and overarm throw. During our busy learning time, the children are currently fascinated with building the best paper planes and seeing who can fly theirs the highest and furthest - the windy weather has definitely helped with this!



Love of Learning, Love of Life itself and Love of God



This week, we read the book 'Bothered by Bugs' as part of our focus on minibeasts. We had some great discussions about which bugs the children did and didn't like. The children have been busy exploring our bug tuff tray and thinking about the features of different minibeasts such as how many legs they have and how they move. The children have been doing observational drawings of different bugs and have also created some beautiful fingerprint artwork of minibeasts too which are now proudly on display. Next week, we will move on to looking at construction and applying our creativity in becoming builders!

Mrs Guilliam, Miss Griffin and Mrs Villar



Willow Class – Year 1



We are so pleased with the progress Year 1 has made in English this last term. Previously, English was not always an area the children looked forward to, but since returning after Easter, attitudes have transformed. The children are beginning to realise that they really can write sentences, and this has made a huge difference to their confidence and enjoyment. We have seen a wonderful improvement in resilience and independence, with many children now applying their learning more consistently. It has been especially exciting to see sentences regularly including adjectives, as well as question marks and exclamation marks. It is incredibly rewarding to see all their hard work coming together, well done Year 1!

Last half term, we had a lovely time exploring letters and postcards using Paddington's Post as our inspiration. The children learned all about the journey of a letter, from writing it to its delivery, including what happens at the sorting office. They particularly enjoyed stepping into Paddington's shoes and writing thoughtful letters to Aunt Lucy, sharing their experiences of living with the Brown family. In our poetry unit, we explored free verse poetry, focusing on rhythm and syllables. The children really embraced this creative style, enjoying the freedom it offers and discovering that anyone can be a poet.

This half term, we have begun writing to inform, focusing on information texts about bugs. The children have written clear, sequenced sentences explaining processes such as the butterfly life cycle and frog development. We are excited to build on this by creating our very own information texts about imaginative new bugs that the children will design themselves.

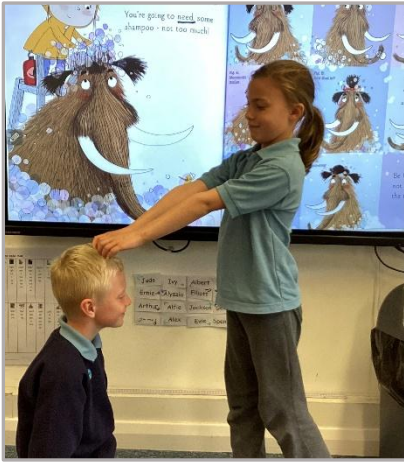
Well done to all the children for completing the phonics screening check. They told us they had great fun taking part! Children's marks will be shared in their end of year report as we now have to wait for the DfE to decide what the pass mark will be this year. Finally, a friendly reminder that children should aim to read five times a week, with this recorded in their reading records, even if it's just a few pages at a time. Currently, only 7 out of 21 children are regularly entered into our weekly reading raffle. We would love to see even more children taking part!

Mrs Ward, Miss Ellis and Miss Webb

Love of Learning, Love of Life itself and Love of God



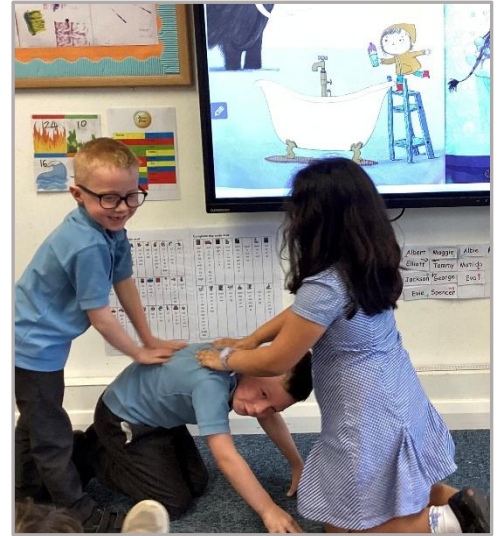
Birch Class – Year 2



This week our mornings have looked a little different in year 2 as we took our SATS tests. Everyone was focused, resilient, and tried their best throughout. Well done Birch class for all your hard work!

For our first unit in English this half term, Birch class have been thoroughly enjoying our work on writing instructions, using the wonderfully fun and imaginative text 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' as our model. The

children have loved exploring this humorous book, acting it out, and using it to inspire their own ideas for writing clear and effective instructions.

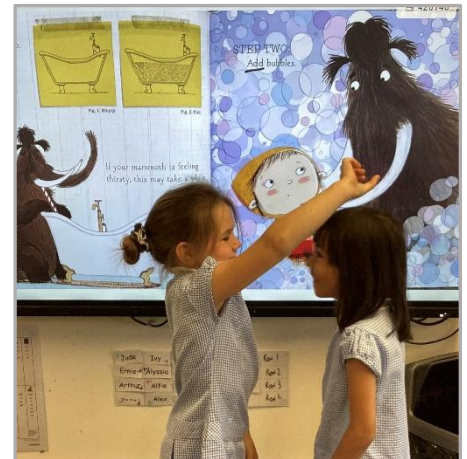


We began by identifying the key features of instructions, including the use of “bossy” verbs (imperative verbs) such as put, fill, scrub and rinse. The children quickly recognised how these verbs help give clear commands, making instructions easy to follow. We also discussed the importance of putting steps in the correct order so that the task can be completed successfully. In addition to this we recognised the importance of adding extra details to make instructions clear and precise.

To build our understanding, we first looked at a familiar, real-life example: instructions for washing hands. The children worked hard to put instructions in the correct order, helping them to understand how important sequencing is when writing instructions. We then moved on to writing our own instructions for brushing teeth. The children thought carefully about the equipment needed, such as a toothbrush and toothpaste, and included clear, ordered steps using our success criteria to ensure their instructions were easy to follow.

Inspired by our class text, the children then created their own instructions for washing a woolly mammoth. This was a great opportunity to be imaginative while still applying the skills we have learned. They considered both the equipment they would need and the challenges of washing such a large and hairy creature!

Most recently, the children have completed their own instructional writing about how to wash a creature of their choosing. We were very impressed with their creativity and the range of animals chosen. They were encouraged to think carefully about any problems they might face and how they could overcome them so their instructions would be successful. This led to some thoughtful and detailed writing.



Miss Sawyer and Mrs Buckmaster



Oak Class – Year 3 & 4

Oak Class have had a wonderfully creative few weeks in English, diving deep into the world of poetry. We explored a range of poems by Valerie Bloom from *Stars with Flaming Tails*, using her playful language and vivid imagery as inspiration for our own writing. The children experimented with metaphors to describe important people in their lives, and many even chose to weave rhyme into their verses.

We also crafted some beautiful descriptive setting poems and had great fun adding an extra verse to one of Valerie Bloom's originals. Later, the class wrote their own versions of a poem about a "perfect place", before choosing the poem they were most proud of to edit, improve, and publish neatly to take home. As staff, we were all genuinely impressed with the level of creativity and imagination that many of the children were able to achieve while writing their poems.

Next, we will be moving on to non-chronological reports. We'll be exploring their key features and then writing our own reports about the importance of play and engaging with the real world, rather than spending too much time on screens.

Mr Armes, Miss Wentworth, Mrs Crowe and Miss Standing

This feels like heaven by Eva Austin

This would be perfect

A woodland, a dream

The wonderful woods

The singing birds rehearsing in the trees

The rivers sweet song could send me to sleep

The fruits on the bushes

The silk soft leaves swaying in the breeze

This would be lovely

If I wasn't so scared

That a bird would poop on my head!

Attendance Reminder

We would like to remind everyone of the importance of regular school attendance and the procedures to follow should you need to request absence during term time.

At our school, we expect all children to maintain at least **96% attendance** which is our individual target set by government for our school.

Whilst we do not encourage parents to take children out of school during term time, we understand that there may occasionally be exceptional circumstances. If you plan to request leave, a Leave of Absence form **must be completed at least two weeks in advance** and returned to the school office.

Please also be mindful that there are **two sessions in a school day (morning and afternoon)**. If a child accumulates **10 or more unauthorised sessions within a 10-week period**, this **may result in a Penalty Notice being issued by Hertfordshire County Council** for both parents of the child.

We appreciate your support in ensuring that all pupils attend school regularly and make the most of their learning opportunities.

Mrs Cowler



Brief from the Office:

Contact

- For all **general** emails and to **report absence**, please email Elaine - admin@hormead.herts.sch.uk
- For anything to do with **finance, clubs or Arbor**, please email Linda - office@hormead.herts.sch.uk

Please complete the Club questionnaire on Ping.

Raffle tickets and money can be brought into the office or popped into the letterbox on the wall.

Please complete your lunch preference on Ping for Sports Day.

Thank you

Dairy Dates for the Summer Term

Any changes are in red font

June 2026		
Wed 17th	June	2pm - New Reception children and parents Teddy Bears Picnic
Thu 18th	June	Whole school trip (R to Y4) to KNEBWORTH (not preschool & Nursery)
Sat 20th	June	Vintage Summer Fair
Thu 25th	June	9:30am - New Reception Settling in session 1
Thu 25th	June	1pm - District Athletics – team to be confirmed
Thu 25 th	June	Newsletter 19
Fri 26th	June	SPORTS DAY – starts at 1pm (arrive 12:45pm)
July 2026		
Wed 1st	July	9:30am - New Reception Settling in session 2
Wed 1 st	July	Birch Class trip to Clacton
Mon 6th	July	10am - Oak Class Summer production rehearsal
Tue 7th	July	2pm - Oak Class Production of Aladdin
Tue 7th	July	6pm - Oak Class Production of Aladdin
Thu 9 th	July	Moving up day (SWAP classes – Y4's to Middle School)
Thu 9 th	July	9:30am - New Reception Settling in session 3
Fri 10 th	July	Newsletter 20
Fri 10th	July	PTA treasure hunt after school
Fri 10 th	July	2pm - Reception Graduation ceremony – Parents and Grandparents welcome
Mon 13th	July	Year 4 lesson taster Edwinstree
Thu 16th	July	4:30pm - Y4 leavers Pudding party
Thu 16th	July	Reports out
Fri 17th	July	Newsletter 21
Wed 22nd	July	10am - Year 4 Goodbye Service
Wed 22nd	July	1pm School ends for Summer holidays
Mon 27th	July	School open for Summer Club
Mon 17th	August	School open for Summer Club
September 2026		
Tuesday 1st	INSET Day (School closed for Staff Training)	

Love of Learning, Love of Life itself and Love of God



Wednesday 2 nd	All children return to school
	New Reception cohort (8:45-11:45am for first 3 days)

HORMEAD CofE First School

180 YEARS

HORMEAD SCHOOL Celebration

180 YEARS

MULTIPLE GAMES WITH PRIZES!

FREE ADMISSION - ALL WELCOME!

SATURDAY 20TH JUNE

12:00 PM TO 4:00 PM

HORMEAD SCHOOL FIELD BUNTINGFORD, SG9 0NR

BOUNCY CASTLES

MEET EVA

FACE PAINT

FESTIVAL HAIR STYLES

TRACTOR VISIT!

LOTS OF £1 OR FREE ACTIVITIES FOR FAMILY FUN!

GAMES

BOUNCY FUN

CRAFTS

LUCKY DIP

TOMBOLA

SWEETS & TREATS

RAFFLE WITH AMAZING PRIZES!

BAR

BBQ

ICE CREAM & DESSERTS

LOW COST FAMILY DAY OUT WHILST SUPPORTING OUR LITTLE VILLAGE SCHOOL!

Love of Learning, Love of Life itself and Love of God



HORMEAD SCHOOL
SUMMER CLUB

OPEN FOR 2 WEEKS!

FUN • FRIENDS • ADVENTURE • CREATIVITY

WEEK COMMENCING

27TH JULY and 17TH AUGUST

GREAT VALUE CHILDCARE
RUN BY STAFF OF HORMEAD

FULL DAY
8:30 – 4:30
£30

HALF DAY
MORNING OR AFTERNOON
£20

OPEN TO CHILDREN FROM ALL SCHOOLS
AGES 3 TO 11

BOOK NOW

01763 289201 Office@hormead.herts.sch.uk

Bookings now open! Please contact the office for a form.

Love of Learning, Love of Life itself and Love of God